village Seur-Chamurkha are in the waiting list for about one year. It is planned to clear this waiting list gradually by March, 1998.

(d) and (e) No Sir. Telephone connections have not been provided to them since they have not yet applied for the same.

**Communication Facilities in N.E. Region**

6. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the details of schemes/ projects launched and steps undertaken/ contemplated to improve upon communication facilities in the North-Eastern Region with special reference to Assam?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): During 1997-98, it is proposed to provide 73,000 lines of net switching capacity, 57,500 telephone connections and 6,000 village public telephones in North-East Region which includes net switching capacity of 44,000 lines, 35,000 telephone connections and 4,000 village public telephones for Assam.

During, 9th Plan period, the following improvements are proposed for North-East Region including Assam:—

(a) All the remaining Sub-Divisional head quarters in the North East Region will be provided with STD/ ISD facility.

(b) Remaining electro-mechanical exchanges will be replaced by electronic exchanges.

(c) All the remaining villages will be provided with telephone facility.

(d) Provide telephone on demand and connect exchanges by reliable media to bring North-East Region including Assam comparable with most other States of the country.

**Application for shifting the Telephone within the Janpath Telephone Exchange**

7. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of telephone subscribers who applied for shifting of their telephone within the Janpath Telephone Exchange during the months of May and June, 1997;

(b) the dates on which OBs were issued in respect of those telephone subscribers and the actual date on which the telephone starred functioning at the new premises',

(c) whether the officials in the Janpath Telephone Exchange have ignored to accede to the request of the telephone subscribers on 'first-come-first-serve' basis for shifting of their telephones; and

(d) if so, the action Government pro pose to take against the officials who deliberately violated the norms and rules?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Sir, the details of 147 telephone subscribers who applied for shifting of their telephones during the months of May and June, 97 are given as per list enclosed. *(See* Appendix 181, Annexure No. 1).

(b) Sir, complete details about the date of request received, OB issued and actual date of execution of OB are given as per list enclosed, *(see* Appendix 181, Annexure No. 1)

(c) No Sir. Shifting of telephones in the feasible pockets have been implemented pillarwise on seniority basis.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c).

**Transfer/Shifting of the Telephone Connection**

8. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state: